

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1768 without my signature.

The Victims Restitution Fund was established to assist all victims of crime by providing reimbursement for out of pocket expenses for costs related to the crime. I support protecting this fund so government can ensure victims do not face economic hardship after suffering at the hands of a criminal. Making a special appropriation out of this fund for a service provider, even for a program as successful as the Trauma Recovery Center at San Francisco, would endanger our ability to ensure these funds will be available to all victims throughout the state.

In addition, by using funds in the manner contemplated by this bill will compromise federal reimbursement funds to California because they are not being spent on direct victim reimbursement.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger